technology, low capacity utilisation, excess manpower, resource crunch and erosion of net worth due to continuous losses, lack of credit worthiness, heavy interest burden, weak marketing strategies as well as managerial problems etc.

(d) The Government's policy towards public sector as enunciated in the Budget for the year 2000-01, is to:

— Restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs;
— Close down PSUs which can not be revived;
— Bring down Government equity in all non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower, if necessary; and
— Fully protect the interests of worker.

(e) In the interest of workers, the Government offers a Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) which is far more generous than the retrenchment compensation available under the Industrial Disputes Act. Alongwith the VSS, payment of past wages and statutory dues are also ensured. The Government has also put in place a scheme for 'Counselling, Retraining and Redeployment of Rationalised workers.'

Bifurcation of CCI

1542. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the difficulty to float a new company for the profitable cement factory at Bokajan by bifurcating it from the parent sick Cement Corporation of India (CCI); and

(b) whether his Ministry will consider this in the context of industrial backwardness of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is a sick company under reference to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), a quasi-judicial body. IFCI, the Operating Agency (OA) is handling the sale of CCI as a whole or its plants, individually or collectively, including

Bokajan, under the direction of BIFR given in its meeting held on 27.03.2001. CCI is a non-strategic PSU.

Privatisation package of Jessop

1543. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hand over Rs. 14 crore being sale proceeds of land of Metro Rail to the highest bidder of Jessop as part of privatization package; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (b) No, Sir. Jessop is getting Rs. 14.99 crore from Metro Railway, Kolkata as compensation for 5.5 acre of land and shifting/relocation of some of its facilities.

Material made available to the media

1544. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of press releases, press briefings, articles and photographs has come down drastically in recent years;

(b) if so, the number of actual material made available to the media in each category by each DPO during the last three years, month-wise;

(c) the steps taken/contemplated to improve the efficiency of officers; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on salaries, furniture, stationery, transport and entertainment during the last two years, month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For faster and more efficient dissemination of information on Government policies, programmes and activities, all Departmental